

M O U N T V E R N O N

NOW



Alumni Journeys

MVNU alumni share their
Life Changing stories

Traditional and Excell
enrollments on the rise

Following faculty:
Romania, Philippines, East Africa

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Life Changing

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MOUNT VERNON NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2004 • VOL. 39 • ISSUE 1 • www.mvnu.edu



Atul Meshramkar ('99) with Dr. Fairbanks in India.

Developing leaders around the world

By Dr. E. LeBron Fairbanks, President

Christian greetings to you!

I returned to the United States from a quick, ten-day, overseas trip on Wednesday evening, Oct. 15. What a delight to spend four days in India and another four in Bangladesh!

The conferences in the two countries focused on local church pastors, church-type mission leaders and the "Jesus" film coaches and team members. Dr. J.K. Warrick, senior pastor of the Olathe, Kansas, College Church of the Nazarene, was the devotional speaker and I led six sessions in each conference on the subject of "Christ-Like Leadership." It was both an exhausting and exhilarating experience.

Despite losing my digital camera and having a severe case of "stomach virus" on the 36-hour return to the U.S., I was very much immersed in the activities and fellowship of the conferences.

Greetings to the MVNU faculty, staff and alumni from Atul P. Meshramkar, a 1999 MVNU graduate. He serves as the All India Compassionate Ministries director for the Church of the Nazarene. The entrepreneurial business mindset he nurtured at MVNU is reflected in his work in India. His professors in the MVNU School of Business should feel justly proud of their investment in Atul! He and his wife are proud parents of twins born in August.

Another personal delight for me came in Bangladesh. Only one

person from Bangladesh has graduated from the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Manila. John Bose, a 2001 APNTS graduate, was one of my two translators in the All Bangladesh conference in the capital city of Dhaka.

Bangladesh, with a population of 130 million people, is the most densely populated country in the world. Per capita family income is approximately \$500 a year.

The Church of the Nazarene in these two countries embraces and expresses a phenomenal holistic approach to ministry. I believe you would be both impressed and grateful with their broad focus and social development activities; health education and development services; literacy and functional education; women's empowerment and advancement; environmental education and conservation, as well as countrywide emphasis on evangelism through the "Jesus" film initiatives.

The joy and fulfillment in teaching and sharing with emerging national leaders in developing countries remained with me through the following weeks leading to the MVNU board of trustees' annual meeting and the array of Homecoming activities. I am very grateful to have had this privilege and opportunity.

Grace and peace to you—especially during this holiday season.

MOUNT VERNON NOW

What's Inside

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Cover photo: A beautiful, crisp, fall day on MVNU's campus, overlooking the quad and Hyson Campus Center.

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Mount Vernon NOW (USPS 761-980) is published four times a year by Mount Vernon Nazarene University, located at 800 Martinsburg Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050. Periodical Postage Paid at Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050.

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SUBSCRIPTION UPDATES: communications@mvnu.edu

Mount Vernon Nazarene University is an intentionally Christian teaching university for traditional age students, graduate students and working adults who seek opportunities to learn and grow in an academic community of faith. We provide the context for a transformational experience through excellent academics, service opportunities, caring relationships and a nurturing spiritual and social environment. We challenge students to achieve their highest potential, to become increasingly Christ-like and to make a difference in their world through lifelong service.

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Large freshman class adds to MVNU's growing enrollment

For the twelfth consecutive year, Mount Vernon Nazarene University has seen increased enrollment numbers. At MVNU's five campuses, 2,392 students are currently enrolled. Of these, 375 are traditional undergraduate first-time freshmen, the largest new class since the record year of 1999. This year's traditional freshman number reflects a 12 percent increase over last year. MVNU's Excell program has achieved a record enrollment for the tenth consecutive year, breaking the 1,000 mark for the first time.

"I'm grateful for the steady, consistent growth during the past twelve years," stated President Fairbanks. "I have been privileged to participate with an outstanding team in developing new undergraduate and graduate academic programs, and renovating or constructing new academic, recreational and residential facilities on our beautiful, 401-acre Mount Vernon campus." He concluded, "MVNU is emerging as a nationally recognized, academically strong and distinctively Christian university."

There are 1,011 students enrolled in Excell's adult and graduate programs: 747 undergraduate students, 186 graduate students and 78 Certificate of Ministry Preparation students. Over the past five years, Excell's total enrollment has risen approximately 93 percent. MVNU operates five Excell campus locations: Mount Vernon, Newark, Lima, Columbus and its newest campus in Gahanna. Excell is designed for working adults 23 years of age and older, and offers the following degrees: associate of arts in general studies, bachelor of business administration, master of arts in education, master of ministry and new this fall—the master of science in management.

Dr. Randall Wells, associate vice president for Graduate and Adult Education, noted the continuing strength of the Excell undergraduate and graduate programs, and especially noted the successful launch of the master of

science in management program, plus the continued growth of the Professional Educators Licensure (PEL) track within the master of arts in education program. "We are excited to further the University's mission while meeting the needs of the working professional," said Wells.

Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Development, Dr. Doug Matthews, commented, "We are very grateful for the large freshman class and for Excell's continued growth. MVNU continues to be extremely attractive to students because of its academic and athletic excellence; state-of-the-art technology and facilities; deeply committed and award-winning faculty; caring staff; and its solid commitment to integrate faith, values and learning while holistically developing Christ-like servant leaders."

2003 Freshmen Facts

MVNU's freshman class is a very diverse group. They represent:

- 40 different majors
- 17 states
- 2 countries
- 26 denominations
- 223 females
- 152 males
- Ages 16-68
- 50 children of pastors or missionaries
- 14 valedictorians, 2 salutatorians

From the Philippines to Mount Vernon: Behr engages in cross-cultural communication

By Trinia Huddleston, Assistant for Communications and Special Events



McCament works for justice in Homeland Security

By Crystal Owens Tuel, Assistant Professor of Spanish



As a Mount Vernon Nazarene University student, James McCament saw the University's motto of "To seek to learn is to seek to serve" lived out in the academic, spiritual and social life of the campus. Since graduation in 1996, his own career path has provided opportunities for both knowledge and service which have demonstrated God's faithfulness.

Now serving in Washington, D.C., as a special policy advisor to Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, the Mount Vernon native looks back at MVNU as a unique preparation for the challenges of law school and service in the federal government. McCament noted, "My professors, including those in the



Dr. Dan Behr, professor of communication at Mount Vernon Nazarene University, recently completed three summer sessions of teaching at Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in Rizal, Philippines. He taught Theory and Processes of Communication, Traditional Media and Interpersonal Communication.

Behr first went to APNTS in 1999 to teach during a sabbatical from MVNU, and has returned every year since. APNTS is one of only two graduate schools operated by the Church of the Nazarene. They offer a master's degree in Christian Communications, which includes training in various media ministries as well as communication theory. APNTS also houses the Fairbanks Media Center, a production facility for radio and video materials used in the region.

Behr feels the experience is a way to use his training and gifts in a specific application. "It shows that God can find a place for anyone in His work," he said. Behr also serves as the chairperson for all master's thesis committees in Christian Communication.

During his time in the Philippines, Behr has experienced many new things. He learned about the Korean opera, "pansori," which takes nine hours to perform and uses only a singer and a drummer. He also learned that Indonesians use shadow puppets—one-dimensional cutouts lit from behind. Behr said that the curly hair often used on Western puppets is considered demonic and frightening to Philippine children.

"I think I learn more than I teach because of the class participation and practice within the cultures," he noted. "Like the story of the loaves and fish, I feel I give all of what little I have, and return with basketfuls."

Through his experiences, Behr brings a wealth of knowledge and firsthand experience in cross-cultural communication to his Mount Vernon classrooms. He said this is just one of the many needs he sees for training in specialized areas on the mission field. It is his desire to spread a contagious support of global missions to MVNU students, faculty and staff.



Dr. Dan Behr (left) with friends in the Philippines.

Education, History and Spanish departments, demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the Kingdom through passing on their knowledge and experience. From the high caliber of instruction, it was clear they could have had more lucrative positions but chose to serve at MVNU."

As a double education major in social studies and Spanish, spending a semester in Central America and a semester with the American Studies Program in Washington, D.C., gave McCament a deep appreciation for other cultures and the confidence to engage with those very different from himself. "The ASP program provided more tools to debate ideas and to work toward doing justice. I have also used Spanish in some way at each post-graduate job and have applied the discipline of language study to other areas of my life, including studying law," he commented.

After graduating from Notre Dame, McCament served as a law clerk for one year in the U.S. District Court in Indiana. When he returned to D.C. in September 2001 to serve as an honors attorney in the General Counsel's Office of the Department of Treasury, McCament discovered that September 11 would significantly impact his career. During his time with the Treasury Department, he provided legal advice on several cases, including terrorist financing and other issues of law enforcement and international law. "The involvement in the work against terrorism was an extremely interesting, and sometimes tense, chapter in practicing law," McCament added.

With passage of the Homeland Security Act in November 2002, and establishment of the new Department of Homeland Security in January 2003, McCament was offered a position as a member of the new DHS Office of the General Counsel in March 2003. He spent six months as a staff attorney working on issues of border and transportation security and administrative and international law, and actually met President Bush while there. "Many of the legal questions were new and it was interesting to watch 22 different agencies come together," McCament explained.

This August, he was offered his current position as special policy advisor. Leaving the General Counsel's office in September, McCament has created and implemented many new policies of the Department. He currently focuses on international, science and technology issues.

McCament concludes, "God leads individuals through new and unplanned roads. Attending MVNU uniquely prepared me for those roads. I'm grateful for the instruction in faith and service, as well as for the close friendships developed during those years. Though I know there will be challenges ahead, God's promises have proven true, and I know I am prepared to face them."

Pillars of Leadership

By Dr. C. Jeanne Serrão, Dean of the School
of Religion and Philosophy

Two new leadership positions have been appointed in the School of Religion and Philosophy:

Dr. Larry Houck has been appointed as chair of the department of Religion and Philosophy. He has a D.Min. in ministerial and biblical studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. Houck came to MVNU in 2000 with 15 years of pastoral experience and having served eight years in education at Greenville College, as well as overseas. His ministry strengths include administration and teaching, and his primary responsibilities as chair will be to guide the development of curricular programs for the department as well as scheduling courses and staffing. Dr. Houck commented, "It is a joy to serve the Church of the Nazarene and the Religion and Philosophy department at MVNU in this assignment."

Dr. Alex Varughese has been appointed to fill the position of Certificate of Ministry Preparation (CMP) director which Dr. Houck left to become department chair. Varughese was the founding director of CMP, so his firsthand knowledge and experience serve the program well. Last year, he stepped down from his heavy responsibilities as both division chair and department chair for Religion and Philosophy. Dr. Varughese received his Ph.D. from Drew University in biblical studies, with a concentration in Old Testament. He brings 24 years of teaching experience, with 21 of those at MVNU. He said his desire is that the CMP program be recognized by the University's constituents as an attractive option, not only to train those who are called to ministry, but also to prepare the laity for Christian service in the local church. The CMP program is already operating in several of our districts: East Ohio (two sites); Central Ohio (two sites); and North Central Ohio (two sites, including the MVNU campus). This service is extended to any district interested in establishing CMP sites in its area.

It is a privilege to have these very qualified individuals serving in these leadership capacities in the School of Religion and Philosophy. Please feel free to contact Dr. Houck at larry.houck@mvnu.edu or Dr. Varughese at alex.varughese@mvnu.edu if you have any questions or need assistance in these areas.

Dr. Alex Varughese (left) and
Dr. Larry Houck (right).

MVNU supports Women In Ministry

Mount Vernon Nazarene University has an active support group for Women in Ministry on campus and on our educational zone. The Women In Ministry Network, under the direction of Dr. C. Jeanne Serrão, dean of the School of Religion and Philosophy, sponsored a Women in Ministry Day last April for women pastors and associates on our educational zone. Dr. Jane Kennard, assistant professor of Christian education, co-directed the conference and presented a workshop on leadership. Rev. Vicki Copp was the keynote speaker.

This fall, Rev. Jan Ruark, a 2002 MVNU alumna and director of Rachel's House (transitional housing for homeless women in Columbus, Ohio), continued the workshop education with a seminar for MVNU women ministry students on "Affirming My Call." Dr. Judith Schwanz, professor of pastoral counseling at Nazarene Theological Seminary, was a guest speaker.

With an MVNU education zone Women In Ministry Network Day every other spring, the next one is planned for April 2005. This allows for attendance at the International Wesleyan/Holiness Women's Clergy Conferences on the even years.

This April 15-18, 2004, the sixth International Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy Conference will be at the Westin Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Serrão, Rev. Cindy Stiverson ('99) and Kendra Lambert ('93, assistant to the MVNU Chaplain for Leadership Development and Small Group Ministries) will present the Small Group Ministry workshop for the conference. All MVNU Women in Ministry students are encouraged to attend with the School of Religion and Philosophy covering transportation costs. A fund has been set up with Wesleyan/Holiness Women Clergy to receive donations to help our students attend. Cost for one student is \$330 which includes registration, seven meals, dessert reception and hotel costs. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Dr. Serrão at jeanne.serrao@mvnu.edu or (740) 392-6868, ext. 3602. For more information about the conference, visit www.messiah.edu/whwc.

Serrão has also been asked to write an exposition for a new Bible study online project called WIM Resources. The Wynkoop Center for Women in Ministry website, housed at Nazarene Theological Seminary, hosts a variety of Bible, academic and other relevant resources. The mission of the Wynkoop Center for Women in Ministry is "To equip, empower and encourage women called by God to serve in and through the church of Jesus Christ." For more information and to access resources, visit www.wynkoopcenter.org.

Christian education and MVNU make a match!

By Rev. Bruce Oldham, Christian Education Department Chair

When asked about the benefits of Nazarene higher education, most parents will rank—alongside quality academics, spiritual development and a supportive and challenging faith community—the prospects of their student finding a Christian spouse. The benefit often pays off in equipped and committed couples investing their lives in ministry.

But when two alumni shared the same major, similar interests and common experiences as students, had similar separate ministries, then “found” each other later—that’s news!

Brad Taylor and Kari Sutherland grew up in different places but had parallel backgrounds. Both were active in their youth groups and made frequent trips to Mount Vernon for special events. Brad enrolled at MVNU in 1996 and Kari in 1998.

They found leadership niches during their time at MVNU, Kari as resident assistant and Brad as member of Redeemed, and both participated in ministry-related campus activities. Both chose a Christian education major, developing a common, integral love for ministry. They named faculty and staff such as Dr. Rick Ryding,

Rev. Joe Noonan, Dr. Gary Sivewright, Dr. David Wilkes, Jan Hendrickx and Student Development personnel, alongside friends and students at MVNU, as instrumental in their growth.

After graduation, Brad and Kari launched into ministry roles. In May 2000, Brad joined the staff of West Chester Church of the Nazarene as pastor of education. Kari graduated in May 2002 and became part of the staff of Beavercreek Church of the Nazarene as pastor to college and career youth.

“As I dove into ministry, I became aware of how much I was applying what I learned [at MVNU],” Kari said. “I knew I did not have all the answers, but had the guidance needed to help me in ministry and in my daily walk.”

Brad echoed Kari’s sentiment, “MVNU heavily influenced my ministry. I still reference notes and books from Christian education, theology, biblical courses and church history classes. The habits and spiritual disciplines that I formed at MVNU are a great part of what I do today.”

At the Southwestern Ohio Nazarene district assembly in 2002, their paths

came together again. They commented, “MVNU played a significant role in the development of our relationship, even though we had graduated when it started. God used those years to prepare us for each other and for ministry together!”

Brad and Kari were married on Nov. 22 at Beavercreek, and Kari recently started pursuing her master’s degree in counseling at Wright State University. Brad will continue his work at West Chester. In the long term, Kari hopes to counsel young women in crisis situations, whereas Brad would like to teach at the college level.

To students considering a ministry in Christian Education, they advised, “MVNU is an outstanding place to learn key principles and techniques in educational ministry. Most importantly, you will keep before yourself your own spiritual journey!” For more information on the Christian Education Department, contact Admissions at 1-866-GO-2-MVNU, or visit www.mvnu.edu.



Upcoming Continuing Education Events

January 16–17, 2004

Church Finance MRT Workshop

The tenth annual workshop for church treasurers, finance secretaries and pastors on managing church finances, stewardship and tax considerations.

February 19, 2004

LEAP: Pastoral Authority

Dr. Millard Reed, President of Trevecca Nazarene University and former pastor of Nashville First Church of the Nazarene, shares the biblical and theological basis for pastoral authority, and relates it to the daily tasks of preaching, pastoral care and church leadership.

March 30, 2004

LEAP: Building a Contagious Church

John Angle, from the Willow Creek Association and adult ministries at Willow Creek/Wheaton Church, provides training and resources for churches and leaders as they reach seekers and build believers.

May 11, 2004

Youth Pastors Leadership Workshop/Network Day

Ginny Olson, co-author of “Youth Ministry Management Tools” and professor of youth ministry at North Park College, leads a workshop for youth pastors and local NYI directors on successfully leading and administrating a youth ministry program.

June 7–11, 2004

PALCON

Pastors Leadership Conference

The regional gathering for all credentialed ministers in the Church of the Nazarene (local licensed students, active ordained elders and deacons and retired ministers), sponsored by Clergy Services of the Church of the Nazarene and hosted by MVNU.

Visit www.mvnu.edu/churchrelations and click on “Continuing Education” or call 1-877-640-7400 for more information.



Coming home: working for their alma mater

These graduates of programs in the School of Education and Professional Studies represent many who have returned to work at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. As students, they contributed to the University's success. Now they continue to do so by bringing professional expertise and dedication to MVNU's mission.



Carol (Boston) Hall, 1977

Carol Hall, a 1977 MVNU alumna, has fond memories of her days on campus as an elementary education major. She recalls student revivals, dorm and apartment living, teaching in local schools and meeting her husband, Larry ('78). Hall has recently joined the Education Department as a student teaching supervisor.

Hall said she left MVNU with a deeper relationship with Christ and confidence about her future. Since graduation, she has been a first-, second- and fourth-grade teacher, as well as a substitute. She also worked with students at Youngstown University through the tech and student teaching program. "My time at MVNU not only shaped me professionally, but personally and spiritually. I gained the knowledge and attitude needed to be successful," said Hall.

The Halls have two daughters: Lesli and Lauren, both students at MVNU.

Keeping children's spirits alive in Romania

By Brian A. Hermon, junior

It seems like an average family home. A bed, some furniture and a young mother with her children. But then you notice—the bed frame is rusting away and the mattress is stained. The children are thin. Their mother bears bruises and cuts on her face and arms. Did you realize that you're viewing all of this within a sewer? You then see an American woman. She listens intently as the young mother shares their story. This is Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Brenita Nicholas.

Nicholas joined MVNU's faculty in 1995 and is currently associate professor of social work. She spent ten months in Romania on a Fulbright scholarship to conduct dissertation research on the strategies street children use to meet their needs.

Ranging in age from infancy to 20, these children are challenged with finding food, shelter and medical care while dealing with pervasive violence at the hands of other street children, prostitution rings, police and even the institutions that serve them. Because laws have been enacted to keep the streets "clean," many of their survival strategies have become criminalized. "Lots of kids live in sewers because it is warm and they have access to hot water," said Nicholas. This is now illegal. Police drive the children out of the sewers and seal them off, trapping the children's belongings inside. According to Nicholas, the children aren't even seen as human but as a part of the landscape, often referred to as "buschatari," or "bushes."

There are nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to aid street children with immediate needs; however, most services are for younger children, leaving the largest percentage of street kids underserved. Furthermore, the culture of corruption in the country and poor funding sometimes lead NGOs to engage in "unethical" behavior, creating a lack of trust in even the faith-based NGOs.

Nicholas said that these children, despite living in such horrible conditions, still love to play and are incredibly funny. Even in their circumstances, she commented, "They still have spirit left in them." It's that spirit that Nicholas hopes to keep alive. "I encourage readers to seek to understand the circumstances in Romania and to think about how they might be able to have a positive impact. The Romanian people need our understanding and support, not our criticism."

MVNU continues Nicholas' efforts in Romania: senior Renata Bush and junior Lindsey Reed are currently working and studying there. MVNU sponsors trips in which more than 30 students have participated. Communism created mistrust among the Romanian people, making it difficult for them to gain a true understanding of the gospel. The study-abroad experience allows students to be ambassadors of the gospel through compassionate service in the context of learning. Alumna Elizabeth Patterson has lived and worked in Romania for three years, combining social work with her call to missions.

Nicholas will travel to India to present her research, and her work will appear in a national report on child welfare. If you would like to learn more about how you can help the Romanian street children, please contact Nicholas at (740) 392-6868, ext. 3706, or e-mail bnichola@mvnu.edu.



(L-R): Gheorghe Cretu, Romanian author and social policy advisor; Rares "Sam" Golea, Romanian student; and Brenita Nicholas at a recent MVNU Social Work departmental forum.

Ardyth Stull, 1991

As a nontraditional student, Ardyth Stull was a wife and mother when she began working toward a Family and Consumer Sciences degree at MVNU. Dr. Candace Fox, professor, remembers, "Being prepared to answer Ardyth's reflective questions in her continual quest for knowledge helped me to become a better teacher. I consider her to be one of our department's best alumni who models the University motto of seeking, learning and serving."



Today, Stull is the director of Career Services at MVNU and an adjunct FCS faculty member. "My training in problem solving taught me to be creative and empathetic when helping students with career needs. Hospitality, management and genuine care of people are crucial to career services," said Stull. Last year she studied to become a business etiquette trainer, marrying her love for FCS, career development and a commitment to the welfare of others. She is also working on her second graduate degree. "My hope is to use the skill of teaching to assist and mentor young women and men for Christ," said Stull.

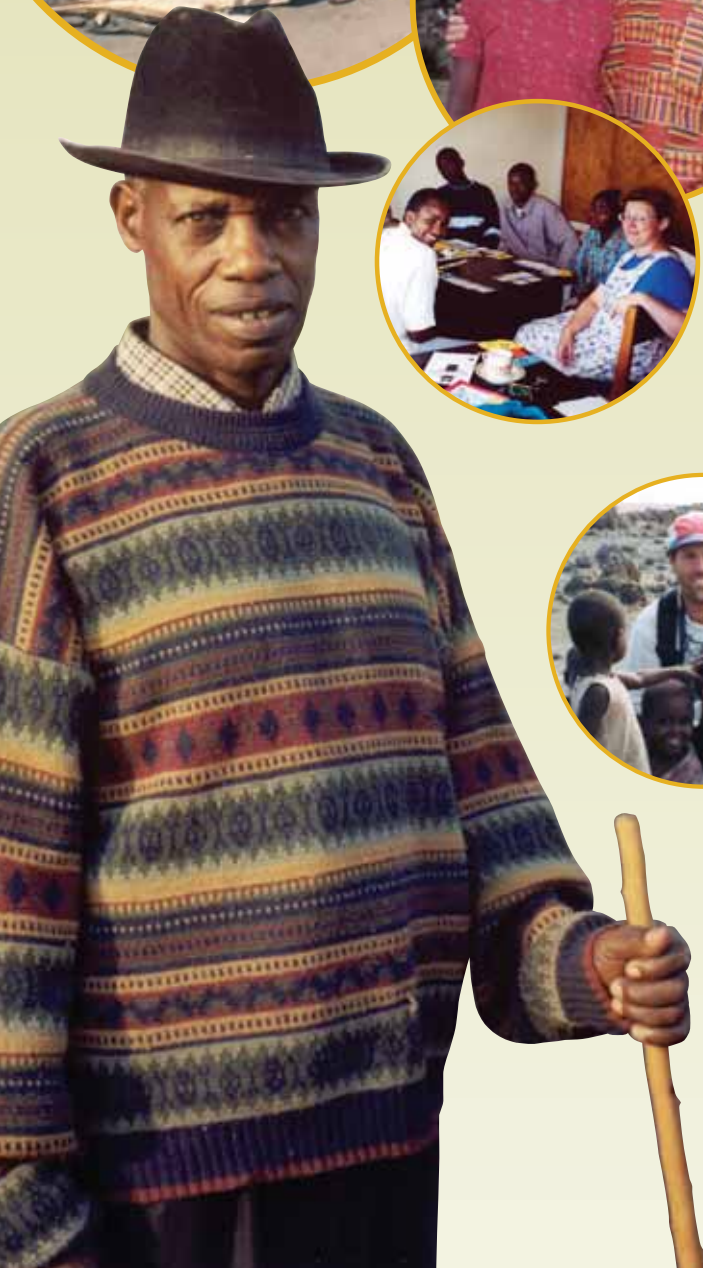
Melissa Miller, 2000

Melissa Miller, a 2000 graduate, feels that she truly grew in her Christian faith while a student at MVNU. She enjoyed the strong friendships she formed with fellow students and faculty members. "The Education Department has had a big influence in my life, and has really prepared me for the future," she said. Miller worked in the education office as a student and enjoyed it so much that she returned to MVNU this fall as its newest teacher for 4- and 5-year-olds in the Esther Jetter Preschool.



Miller has three years of teaching experience, two with a Head Start program and another in volunteer opportunities and summer camps. Most recently, she spent six months in China working with infants and children in an orphanage. MVNU is excited about the skills and diverse knowledge Miller brings to the preschool.

Cronks spread light to African students



Deborah, a second-generation refugee from Rwanda; Nathan, a former child soldier from Sudan; Ermias and Frank, Nazarene pastors from Ethiopia and Ghana; and Hamisi, a Muslim from Kenya. What do these people have in common? They have all been students in Dr. Randy and Becky Cronk's classes at Africa Nazarene University. During the summers of 2001 and 2002, the Cronks volunteered as visiting professors at ANU in Nairobi, Kenya. Randy, MVNU professor of psychology, taught introductory psychology while Becky taught English grammar. Becky is twice a graduate of MVNU, with a bachelor's degree in 1990 and a master's in 1997. The Cronks had planned to return in 2003, but a travel advisory issued by the State Department discouraged all nonessential travel to East Africa.

Dr. Cronk notes that it was very difficult not to return to ANU this past summer. "We've grown very close to many students, staff and faculty at ANU and had been anticipating our return all year. To cancel our plans just ten days prior to our scheduled departure was a very tough decision."

The people of Africa have been a tremendous source of blessing for the Cronks. During a brief trip to Rwanda in 2001, they met Deborah who was doing volunteer work at the Nazarene Church in Kigali, the capital. Unable to find work, she thought it was better to volunteer than to be idle. The Cronks both felt compelled to sponsor her education at ANU. Deborah is now in her third year of study at the University.

In 2002, they made a special trip with Deborah to her rural home in Uganda, surprising her parents in the middle of the night. Her grateful family killed and prepared a goat in celebration, and the Cronks count that weekend as one of the most humbling and poignant of all their memories on the continent.

Randy has been instrumental in securing a quality introductory psychology textbook for ANU students. Although a \$50 text may seem like a substantial purchase to MVNU students, the cost would be prohibitive to ANU students given that the typical East African family lives on a monthly income of less than \$75.

Over the past two years, many MVNU students have donated their Introductory Psychology textbooks at the end of the semester. With these and other donations, over 200 copies of the same textbook have been delivered to ANU. With an enrollment of over 600 students, and psychology a required course for all students, the new textbooks are an answer to prayer for ANU.

Though Africa may be the ignored continent in many respects, Randy and Becky Cronk work to support the mission of ANU—dispelling the darkness of ignorance and advancing the Kingdom of God through education in Africa.

Photos top to bottom: Deborah at the door of her family's "kitchen." Deborah with Dr. Randy Cronk. Becky Cronk with one of her classes. Randy with African children. Deborah's father.

Caring for the world: MVNU supplies critical need for nurses

By Dr. Georgia Purdom, Assistant Professor of Biology

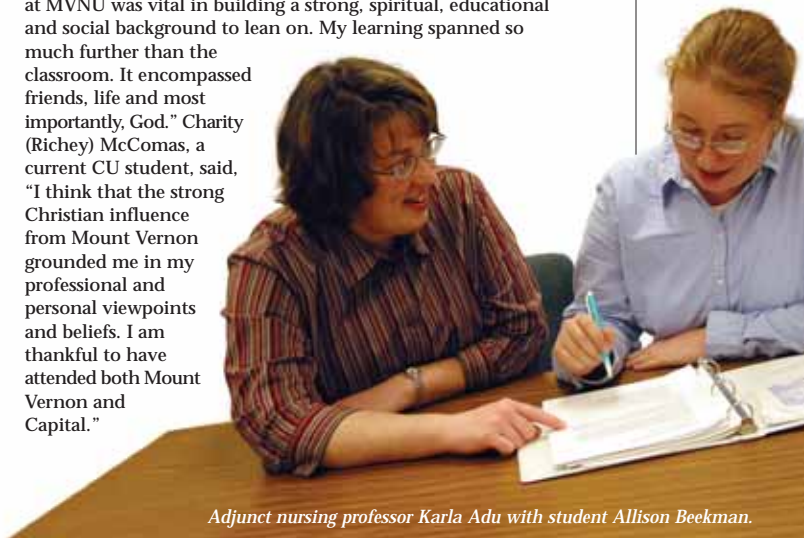
The nursing profession offers men and women an opportunity to participate in ever-expanding roles in health care, including both inpatient and community-based settings. Many enter nursing because of a deep desire to focus on the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Currently, there is a workforce shortage of qualified health care professionals.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University offers a unique two-year pre-nursing program. Students spend the first two years at MVNU taking basic science, general education and nursing courses. Students then enroll in Capital University School of Nursing. The next two years are spent taking clinical and general education coursework. Upon graduation, students receive a bachelor of science degree in nursing from CU and subsequently take the exams to be licensed registered nurses. Students may also choose to attend other universities to complete their degree.

MVNU students who have completed the program have been highly successful. Stephanie Keller and Maria (Keister) Hitchcock graduated from CU in 2003. Keller received the Ruth Neikirk Award in 2003 in recognition for service and self-development from the perspective of holistic health. She works in the step-down cardiac unit at Mount Carmel East in Columbus. Hitchcock was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and works at Children's Hospital in Columbus. Mary (Johnson) McKenzie graduated from Mid-America Nazarene University in 2003 and is a float nurse serving in telemetry at Menorah Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. Karla (Hoffman) Adu is a 1999 graduate of CU. She received her master's degree

in nurse practitioner from The Ohio State University in 2002 and recently joined MVNU as an adjunct professor for nursing. She was named a Fuld Fellow in 1997, a national program established to promote nursing as an international profession. She is currently in private practice in Fredericktown, Ohio.

Former students have great things to say about their experiences at MVNU. Hitchcock commented, "The foundation I received at MVNU was vital in building a strong, spiritual, educational and social background to lean on. My learning spanned so much further than the classroom. It encompassed friends, life and most importantly, God." Charity (Richey) McComas, a current CU student, said, "I think that the strong Christian influence from Mount Vernon grounded me in my professional and personal viewpoints and beliefs. I am thankful to have attended both Mount Vernon and Capital."



Adjunct nursing professor Karla Adu with student Allison Beekman.

Chemistry students probe a community mystery

By Dr. Joseph H. Lechner, Professor of Chemistry

During spring semester, I received a note suggesting MVNU chemistry students investigate a "Columbus Dispatch" article. It reported several Mount Vernon residents suspected something in the municipal water supply was responsible for discoloring blue and green garments.

Mount Vernon and Hamilton are the only two Ohio cities that use chlorine dioxide (ClO₂) to disinfect the water. Most cities use elemental chlorine. Hamilton residents also complained about discolored laundry.

Seniors Lynn Campbell and Lindsay (Mueller) Castle agreed to take this on as a class project. They made several visits to Mount Vernon's water treatment plant and met with its director, Judith Scott.

Mount Vernon uses 2.5 million gallons of water per day. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency specifies that the ClO₂ concentration in the water may not exceed 0.8 parts per million (ppm) and may not drop below 0.04 ppm. The water is analyzed and reported to the EPA twelve times daily.



We decided to test whether ClO₂ could discolor clothing and, if so, at what concentration. Campbell and Castle purchased two dark-green bath towels and cut them into squares. The water plant operator, Terry Maloney, prepared the ClO₂. We diluted this with distilled water to simulate "wash waters" at eight different ClO₂ levels. We exposed each square to ClO₂ for fifteen minutes—approximately the same time that

clothes would be in a washer—rinsed them with distilled water and dried them in a dryer.

Some fading occurred, but not at the levels found in the water supply. No noticeable discoloration took place until levels were ten times greater than normal. The badly-discolored towels in the photo were exposed to ClO₂ at one hundred times the normal level. We concluded that municipal water is not responsible for discoloration in home laundry.

Procter & Gamble suspects most problems arise when concentrated product is poured directly on a garment. They recommend putting detergent in the empty washer and filling with water before adding clothes.

Both 2002 graduates, Campbell attends Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania, and Castle is a second-year student at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio.

Upward transformation

By Dr. Tomas H. Parks, Dean of the School of Business

The transformation from Mount Vernon Nazarene University's old business division structure to the new School of Business provides one of those unique opportunities for faculty to revamp and renew the vision of business education and to challenge outdated assumptions. As we embark on this new phase in our history, we are committed to serve and lead our many constituencies with innovative programs, market responsiveness and world-class customer service.

In this and future articles, we will highlight developments in our vision, programs, students and alumni in order to share the excitement of this transformation. The following table is the first installment in this vision-casting process. Core Values are the foundation upon which our business education philosophy is built. Core Purpose is the motivating force. The Envisioned Future includes the organizational and personal goals we strive to achieve.

CORE IDEOLOGY AND ENVISIONED FUTURE	
<i>Leaders of Change in a Global Environment</i>	
CORE IDEOLOGY	
Core Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Witness: Impacting students' lives for Christ through example and leadership. • Ethics: Teaching biblical principles in the ethical conduct of business. • Relationships: Nurturing a caring relationship between student and teacher. • Learning: Developing a learning environment that fosters open inquiry, expression of thought, critical analysis and creative thinking. • Practicality: Linking learning to life in practical ways. • Excellence: Demonstrating excellence in teaching, service and research. • Academic Freedom: Creating an environment for faculty characterized by academic freedom and responsible autonomy, professional development and collegial relationships. • Community Development: Enhancing the development of all organizations and communities served by the University.
Core Purpose	To advance the Kingdom of God by integrating a Christian perspective into life through business education.
ENVISIONED FUTURE	
Organizational and Personal Goals	<p>To be a leader in experience-based, professional education within the Nazarene community and the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, equipping people with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong liberal arts base • contemporary business knowledge, tools and skills • a foundation for spiritual growth • a social conscience forged by Christian ethics • a sense of community stewardship • a global perspective • a desire for life-long learning

"God is the silent partner in all great enterprises." — Abraham Lincoln

"Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success. Don't depend on your own wisdom." — Proverbs 3:5-7 (NCV)

"... God is the builder of everything." — Hebrews 3:4b (NIV)

Three business faculty members earn doctoral degrees

Another component of the School's upward transformation is the development of our faculty and their quests for higher levels of excellence. A doctoral degree signifies the attainment of the highest level of academic qualification. This, coupled with real-world experience, gives the MVNU School of Business depth and strength needed for developing business professionals in today's hypercompetitive market. Three faculty members recently completed their doctoral programs:

Dr. Kevin Hughes graduated from MVNU in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He went on to earn his master's in organizational management in 1999. Hughes has been with MVNU since 1988 and teaches full time in Excell. He received his Ph.D. in organization and management from Capella University last spring. Hughes is active in missions, his local church and within the Nazarene community at large. He brings a dedication and integrative approach to all his endeavors.

Dr. Beverly Smith is in her eighth year at MVNU. She has a degree from The Ohio State University in marketing and a master's degree from Franklin University. Smith completed her Ph.D. in organizational management with a marketing emphasis from Capella University this summer. She teaches in the traditional program, as well as in Excell. Smith is active in her local church and community in sports. She brings with her significant experience in research and entrepreneurialism.

Dr. Debra Snyder, C.P.A., started at MVNU in 1993. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration as well as an M.H.A., both with accounting majors from OSU. Snyder completed her requirements for a Ph.D. in accounting this summer from Kent State University. She teaches primarily in the traditional program. Snyder is active in the local church community where she performs pro bono accounting work for Christian organizations. She also has extensive experience as a financial analyst and healthcare consultant.

At MVNU we are always looking for high-caliber individuals to add value to our programs. If you are interested, or know of someone with a minimum of a master's degree who would bring expertise to our program, please contact the School of Business at (740) 392-6868, ext. 3300.



*Dr. Kevin Hughes, Assistant Professor of Business;
Dr. Debra Snyder, Associate Professor of Accounting;
and Dr. Beverly Smith, Assistant Professor of Business.*

M.S.M. program launches successfully

By Dr. Margaret Britt, Associate Professor of Business

The new Master of Science in Management (M.S.M.) program was successfully launched through Excell in September. MVNU is currently enrolling for Newark and Mount Vernon campus launches in the spring. This is a great opportunity to begin a master's program designed specifically for working adults. You can graduate in as few as 21 months by taking one class a week, one subject at a time. We've also built in a one-week break between each course. There are a few seats left, so take advantage of this outstanding program and start building your future. Visit www.mvnu.edu/excell/msm.html to learn more about the M.S.M. program.

“Nontraditional”... a term that describes the Excell student community. That may be obvious, as our mission is to educate those individuals outside of a traditional, residential college setting.

The idea of being nontraditional applies to the kind of educational format we use: one night a week, four hours a night, one class at a time, in programs ranging from 18 to over 22 months.

It also applies to the students we serve: All of our undergraduates are over 23 years of age and, with few exceptions, have at least two years of work experience. Most have families and careers. All are commuters, attending class at a campus near home or work, usually at a location that best fits their schedules. They usually complete their program with a core of 15 to 22 students who started with them.

Nontraditional students are different than traditional students, and that is also reflected in their post-graduation relationship with each other and the University. Excell graduates are a part of a rich heritage with Mount Vernon Nazarene University. While their memories of courses and classmates will differ from those in the traditional, residential program, the values and affinity with MVNU's mission is similar. Graduates of programs offered through Excell, however, value their relationship with MVNU . . . they are proud to be called MVNU alumni!

Many of Excell's alumni identify with a particular instructor, course, group, or campus location. All, however, identify with Mount Vernon Nazarene University as “their” institution. Excell's first graduates entered into the ranks of the alumni in 1995. Since that time, Excell has continued to grow and expand. Currently, there are over 1,000 students in Excell programs at five separate campus locations. The mission of MVNU continues to spread through undergraduate and graduate offerings provided in the Excell programs.

The impact from nontraditional adult-education programs is being felt in the higher education community. We are beginning to learn how to cultivate the most meaningful relationships with our nontraditional alumni. As we become aware of their needs, we will be better prepared to meet their expectations and further connect them to the institution.

*by Dr. Randall Wells,
Associate Vice President of Graduate and Adult Education*



Daryl Gruver, associate professor of business, in an Excell classroom. The MVNU Excell program is committed to providing an opportunity for adults to obtain a quality education in a learning environment emphasizing Christian values and ethical standards. Within this context, Excell serves as a resource for adults striving to enhance their personal and professional lives in a constantly changing world.

Are you graduating soon?

For many Excell students, the culmination of their degree is just around the corner. Over 300 Excell students will graduate on May 22, 2004. While this date seems far away, the process leading up to the big day has already begun.

Whether a student desires to walk in the ceremony or not, anyone wishing to receive a degree must fill out and return an “Intent to Graduate” form. These forms have been sent to students

in an information packet and must be returned to the Excell office by February 15, 2004.

Caps and gowns will arrive about two weeks before graduation. Students attending classes may pick them up on their designated class night before 6 p.m. Those not attending classes may pick up their cap and gown Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the campus where they attended.

Tickets are required for admission to the commencement program. Five tickets will be distributed to each graduate. Seats in the R.R. Hodges Chapel/Auditorium may not be reserved. Guests without tickets may sit in any available seating after 2 p.m.

Students with questions may contact John Frazier at (740) 392-6868, ext 4729, jfrazier@mvnu.edu. More information will be provided in early March.



Excell military students overcome immense challenges

By David Baker,
Curriculum Specialist for Excell

Excell students face the daily struggles of academic responsibilities, families and careers. In addition, nearly 5 percent of Excell students are in the military and deal with the real possibility of being called to defend our country.



Donna Clark (left - B.B.A. Group 114), a Master Sergeant in the Air National Guard, commented, "The pressure of never knowing whether you will be with your family or be able to complete a course is always in my mind." Despite the stress, Clark pushes ahead. "I have yet to miss a class or settle for any grade less than an 'A,'" she said.

Military students are aware of the pressure, but often use it as motivation. "The military has better prepared me for most life events," says Nicole Blakely (B.B.A. Group 124), an E6 in the Ohio Air National Guard. "It's matured me and made me more self-reliant. This definitely helps keep me on task."



"My education benefits are a privilege and I work hard to get the most from the program," says Kari Pfeifer (left - B.B.A. Group 124), who has served since 1990 in the 179th Airlift Wing/Medical Squadron in Crestline, Ohio.

What motivates these students to pursue a college degree while fulfilling such responsibility to their country? Most simply want to further their career. Pfeifer says, "I am a Master Sergeant which is moving me into management and this involves personnel and budgeting. [Excell] is helping me understand these issues."

Leona Thomas (B.B.A. Group 117), of the Ohio Air National Guard, agrees. "The military stresses upward mobility in everyone's career. The MVNU Excell program gives employees the opportunity to move up the ladder of success."

Mark Shoaf (right), full-time Excell faculty member and Major in command of 178 Services Flight in Springfield, Ohio, has served 22 consecutive years between the Air Force, Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard. He said the biggest struggles involve time management and the pressure to perform; however, the military has taught him to relate to the pressures that students face while encouraging leadership skills.



Guard and Reserves serve one weekend a month and two weeks of active duty a year, as well as short-duty training classes on weekends and evenings. Many students end up dropping courses or withdrawing to fulfill their responsibilities.

Melanie Bolender, director of Excell's Enrollment Services, said when students miss courses, Excell tries to make coming back as seamless as possible. Students do not have to re-enroll. "We strive to be very supportive of [these students'] commitment," said Bolender. "We make every effort to be as accommodating as possible."

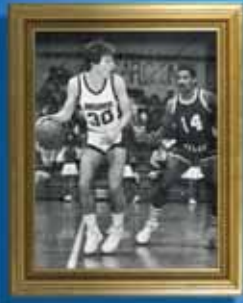
Most who attempt to juggle so many responsibilities, however, do not regret it. Heather Gremling (B.B.A. Group 124), in the Air National Guard, said it is difficult to find time for everything—most important, her young child. But she says she is motivated to become a substitute teacher and counts it a blessing to have the opportunity to pursue that goal.

Serving in the military requires some sacrifice. But these students press on, determined to better themselves and their country.



Four alumni athletes inducted into Cougar Wall of Fame

By Dave Parsons, Sports Information Director



Tom Clark
1984-1987

Clark was a three-year member of the men's basketball team after transferring to MVNU for his sophomore season.

In both his sophomore and junior seasons, Clark was named to the Mid-Ohio Conference Honorable Mention Team. He also received the NAIA's Emil S. Liston Award as a junior for his excellence on the court and in the classroom.

As a senior, Clark averaged 17.8 points per game with 88 assists, and was named to the MOC First Team and the NAIA District 22 Honorable Mention Team. He also shot 50.4 percent from the three-point arc (68 of 135) in the first year for the three-point shot.

For his career, he averaged 15.3 points per game and scored 1,192 points. Clark ranks in the top 15 in school history in steals (130), assists (286) and free throws made (208).

An outstanding student, Clark was also a two-time NAIA and GTE Academic All-American. He was a finalist for the GTE Academic All-American Hall of Fame in 1997.



Keith Bryant
1986-1989

Bryant was a four-year member of the MVNU baseball team.

During his career, the Cougars posted a 121-68 overall record and won three Mid-Ohio Conference titles. The team also captured its first National Christian College Athletic Association championship during his senior season in 1989.

As a sophomore, Bryant was named to the MOC, NAIA District 22, and the NAIA Area VI First Teams, as well as the NAIA Honorable Mention All-American Team after posting a 7-3 record with a 2.54 earned run average.

As a senior, he was named to the MOC, NAIA District 22, and NCCAA District III First Teams as he went 10-3 with a 3.39 ERA.

Bryant still ranks sixth on the School's career victory list with 24 wins. He also ranks fourth with 249 innings pitched.

Following his senior season in 1989, Bryant was drafted in the 36th round of the amateur baseball draft by the Seattle Mariners.



Steve Gregory
1987-1991

Gregory was a four-year member of the MVNU men's basketball team.

During his career with the Cougars, Gregory scored a then-school-record 2,242 career points and led MVNU to its first two 20-win seasons.

In addition to ranking second in career points, Gregory ranks second in career free throws made (402), third in career rebounds (912), fourth in career field goals made (769), and fifth in career three-pointers (302). He also holds a share of the record for the most three-pointers made in a game with 11.

Gregory was named to the MOC First Team once and the MOC Second Team twice. He was also twice named to both the NAIA All-District 22 Team and the NCCAA All-American Second Team.



Lori (Brown) Totten
1990-1994

Totten was a four-year member of both the softball and women's basketball teams during her time at MVNU.

In softball, Totten not only made her mark at MVNU but also on a conference and national level. She is still the only female athlete in school history to have earned NAIA First Team All-American status, and was also an NAIA Second Team All-American as a junior. She was a two-time Conference Player of the Year and a three-time District Player of the Year. Totten still holds 16 school records.

Totten was a standout on the women's basketball team and still ranks ninth on the all-time scoring list with 1,069 points and second in career assists with 340. She helped the Lady Cougars to their first NCCAA national title as a senior in 1993-1994.

The Road Less Traveled: Catching up with Kenny Chaffin

By Dave Parsons, Sports Information Director

Kenny Chaffin is no different than any other athlete. He had dreams of playing basketball at the Division I level and moving on to the professional ranks. He is different, however, when it comes to his priorities.

As a junior at Marysville High School, Chaffin received a full-ride scholarship from Western Michigan University, an NCAA Division I school. But after seeing the Cougars play and praying about his decision, he told WMU that he felt Mount Vernon Nazarene University was the place for him.

During his years with the Cougars from 1998–2002, the team posted a 95-40 overall record and qualified twice for the NAIA Division II National Tournament. Chaffin capped off his senior year by leading MVNU to its first-ever National Christian College Athletic Association championship and being named MVP of the NCCAA National Tournament. He was a three-time NAIA Division II Honorable Mention All-American and finished his career ranked third in school history in career points (2,062).

After graduating in 2002, Chaffin became the third MVNU player to play professionally, signing with Amicale Laique Montivilliers, a Division 3 team based out of Montivilliers in the Normandy region of France. As he joined his new team, which had finished second in its league the previous year, Chaffin soon became a fan favorite with his outstanding play and friendly personality.

He led Amicale Laique Montivilliers to an 18-4 record and the Division 3 championship. Chaffin averaged 23.9 points and 6.8 rebounds per game while shooting 55 percent from the field. He also made 66 three-pointers in 22 games as he connected at a 45 percent clip from beyond the arc. As a result of winning the title, the team will move up to Division 2 this season.



At the end of the season, Chaffin was offered nearly double his salary to play for another year. Instead, he chose to return to his hometown of Marysville to take a teaching position for severe behaviorally handicapped children and a junior varsity coaching position, while his wife, Elizabeth, finishes her degree.

"I have been fortunate enough to play for championships at the high school and college levels, and it was definitely a highlight of mine to win one in Europe," Chaffin commented. "We felt that [coming home] was the best decision for us and for our families. Now, I am trying to make a difference in the lives of kids with special needs, and Liz will graduate from MVNU in May."

Some would question his decision to pass up such an offer, but Chaffin has always been one to take the road less traveled. His sights are set on a career in education, striving to positively impact the lives of his students.

2003-2004 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 3	* at Cedarville	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	* SHAWNEE STATE	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	* at Malone	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	* at Wilberforce	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 13	* OHIO DOMINICAN (CAMP NIGHT)	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	* WILBERFORCE	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	* at Urbana	4:00 p.m.
Jan. 20	* TIFFIN	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	* WALSH	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	* at Shawnee State	8:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	* CEDARVILLE	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	* at Ohio Dominican	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	* RIO GRANDE	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	* at Walsh	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 10	* at Tiffin	8:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	* URBANA	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Geneva (PA)	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	* MALONE (SENIOR NIGHT)	7:30 p.m.

*American Midwest Conference South Division Games

2003-2004 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 3	* at Cedarville	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	* SHAWNEE STATE	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	* at Malone	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	* at Wilberforce	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 13	* OHIO DOMINICAN	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	* WILBERFORCE	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	* at Urbana	2:00 p.m.
Jan. 20	* TIFFIN	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	* WALSH	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	* at Shawnee State	6:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	* CEDARVILLE	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	* at Ohio Dominican	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 5	* RIO GRAND	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	* at Walsh	1:00 p.m.
Feb. 10	* at Tiffin	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 14	* URBANA	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	* MALONE (Senior Night)	5:30 p.m.

*American Midwest Conference South Division Games

“Homecoming is a hassle!”

By Mike Cheek, Director of Alumni Relations and University Fund



I've heard that from several students. Paying for basketball games, crowds, cars parked across campus, “older” people everywhere and other inconveniences are some reasons for such statements.

Why are alumni compelled to return to MVNU? For many, this campus was part of our formation. Who we are today points to our time here. We learned to do laundry, to manage time and money, to prioritize and to relate to others. We came to MVNU as introverted, unsure freshmen. We left with a vision.

We not only earned a degree, we also learned about the world, life, God and ourselves. We were on our own for the first time, but the MVNU faculty and staff quickly became our families. We watched their lives and listened to their words, and through the course of time, we were changed. They laughed with us and cried with us, encouraged us, challenged us and prayed with us.

The campus community believed we were worthwhile. When we walked down the sidewalk, we were greeted with smiles.

Whether rich or poor, talented or average, beautiful or not, we developed deep relationships. To this day, our college friends are some of our closest. Many of us were blessed to meet our life mates at MVNU.

During those crucial years, we needed MVNU to keep our focus on the right things. As we wrestled with career goals and life issues, we needed a holiness framework in which to make decisions. While here, some chose Christ as Savior, some made life and career commitments to Him. Others made these decisions after they left . . . but they could not have made them without MVNU.

The University's motto is, “To seek to learn is to seek to serve.” Our years here taught us to be givers instead of takers. Today we are seeking to make a difference in our homes, our communities and our world. We are better—and our world is better—because of MVNU.

One day, current students will understand—we have to be here! This place is part of us. In many ways, this is home. We come back to see family! Soon, these students will join us, bringing their kids back to meet friends, professors and staff members who had a meaningful impact on their lives. They'll want them to know those who have helped change their lives. And then, they will know what I am talking about.

Life Changing? You bet!

The Grape Vine

BROE ('88) and PATTY (CASTO '90) DAVIS announce the birth of their son, Ethan Broe, on June 14, 2003. Patty works in the enrollment management office for Kent State University, Trumbull campus. Broe is the associate pastor at Warren First Church of the Nazarene.

TOM ('88) and APRIL (RUZICK '84) DUNCAN moved to Twinsburg, Ohio, in March 2003. Tom is in his ninth year as youth pastor at Bedford Church of the Nazarene. April is a substitute teacher in their local school systems. They have two children, Tyler (12) and Alysa (10).

JERRY ('89) and LISA (WEST '88) TROTTI announce the birth of Julia Rose on September 24, 2001, and Jerold Girolamo on November 24, 2002. The family resides in Dublin, Ohio.

1980s

PAM (SIMS '87) ROSE recently accepted a position as assistant principal at Dan Emmett and Pleasant Street Elementary schools. This follows 15 years of teaching with the Mount Vernon City School district.

Medallion awards presented to psychologist and Army chaplain

Medallion nominations are based on outstanding professional achievements and selfless church and community service. The recipients should exemplify MVNU's motto, "To seek to learn is to seek to serve." One lay and one clergy Medallion are awarded each year.

Philip Budd (1976)

Dr. Philip R. Budd is a licensed psychologist and the director of graduate programs in counseling at Southern Nazarene University. After graduating from Biola University with an M.A. and Psy.D. in clinical psychology, he was

in private practice in California for ten years. As the president of a large managed-care group practice, he assisted in starting and directing inpatient and outpatient programs for substance abuse and intensive mental health treatment.

Budd has been the national director for crisis counseling for Nazarene Disaster Response and has a great interest in trauma work. After the Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City, he volunteered through the American Red Cross and NDR. Subsequent to September 11, 2001, he was sent as a volunteer to train New York City mental health workers on how to better deal with trauma.

In addition to this work, Budd has been involved with the Nazarene Church's New Start Assessment Center. He has concentrated on several areas of scholarship and writing in addition to serving on numerous professional and community advisory boards.

Budd has been married for 20 years to Katie, and they have two sons: Aaron, a freshman at SNU, and Austin, in third grade.



Daniel Burris (1989)

Dan Burris is the pastor at the Vandalia, Ohio, Church of the Nazarene. A congregation member commented, "He has been here only three years, but has already been a blessing. Though he is only 35, he displays the wisdom of someone much older, and with his youthful energy he brings a passion for God's will to our church and community." He is a talented speaker who has the ability to bridge the gaps between generations. Burris has a passion for evangelism and families, and challenges young people to become future leaders.

Lieutenant Burris also serves as a chaplain for the United States Army, traveling on weekends and during the summer to be a light where God has placed him. At home, he is a leader in the community, planning community-wide memorial services and participating in Dayton's "Prayer on the Courthouse Square." He is also active in Target Ministries for the homeless.

On a personal note, Burris and his wife Brenda ('89) have five children, whom they home school.

"For all of us, I pray we understand that our highest achievement in life is to become the servant of all and in doing so, we become Christ to others."

— Rev. Dan Burris



1990s

JULIE (PENFOUND '90) DREIFALDT and her husband Ian announce the birth of their second child, Olivia Peregrine, on July 30, 2003. She joins big brother, Griffin (2). The family resides in Denver, Colorado.

BETH SOMMERS ('90) graduated in June 2003 from The Ohio State University with a master's of social work. While attending OSU, she was selected into two honor societies. In March, she was promoted to program supervisor at Richland County CSB.

JOE ('90) and ERIN (SHARROCK '91) WHITE announce the birth of their daughter, Kendall Brooke, on Aug. 15, 2003. Kendall joined big brothers, Evan (7) and Jarod (4).

AARON ('92) and Heather Conrad announce the birth of their second child, Emma Lynne, on May 15, 2003. She joins older brother, Austin. Aaron is an access control specialist for The

Stanley Works. They currently reside in Hilliard, Ohio.

COREY LONG ('92) and his wife Connie announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Margaret, on Oct. 1, 2003. She joins big brother, Tyler (5). Corey is a special investigator for the federal government and Connie is an engineer for the Department of Defense. The couple resides in Beavercreek, Ohio.

CARRIE (CHAMBERS '92) MARTIN and her husband Kevin announce the arrival of their second child, Samantha Jane, on Oct. 9, 2003. She weighed 9 lbs., 4 oz. and was 12 inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother, Hunter Dean. The family resides in Crown City, Ohio, where Carrie teaches at Buckeye Hills Career Center in Rio Grande and Kevin is an ironworker.

REBECCA KIRKPATRICK ('93) has been employed at Pickerington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pickerington, Ohio, as a social services director for five-and-a-half years. She lives in Hopewell, Ohio.

JOHN LINDIG ('93) and his wife Jennifer announce the birth of their daughter, Jádna, born on August 12. She weighed 7 lbs., 7.3 oz. and was 21-1/2 inches long. Jádna joins big brothers John Paul (11) and Jared (8).

RON ROBBINS ('93) and his wife **LORI (LOOKER, EXCELL '98)** announce the birth of their daughter, Danielle Nicole, on August 8, 2003. She weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. She joined big brother, Tyler (2). Ron is a technical account manager at Aelita Software in Dublin, Ohio. Lori is a stay-at-home mom.

NOELLE (FIERBAUGH '93) SCHAUM and her husband Aaron celebrate the birth of Hayden Aaron on August 20, 2003, weighing 7 lbs., 7 oz. He joins big sister, Zoe Ilene.

CHAPLAIN (CPT) CHARLES LAHMON ('94) deployed in April 2003 for a year-long tour in Iraq. Charles is a battalion chaplain assigned to 1-67 Armor, part of the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. He ministers to soldiers and holds regular church services and Bible studies for his unit. He graduated

from NTS in May 2002 with a doctor of ministry degree. Prior to his service, he pastored for seven years on the North Central Ohio district. He and his wife **LISA (HOFFMAN '96)** have three children, Anna (6), Bethany (4) and Chloe (2), and are expecting their fourth child in December. Lisa and the girls live in Fort Hood, where she is very involved with Protestant Women of the Chapel at Fort Hood and is a volunteer in the local schools.

JOELLEN (ANDERSON '94) LUCAS and her husband Adam announce the birth of Wyatt Jesse on June 22. He weighed 9 lbs., 8 oz. and was 22-1/2 inches long. The family resides in Charleston, West Virginia.

JASON ('95) and JODI (WEBB '96) HALL announce the arrival of Dane Patrick on January 17, 2003. He weighed 5 lbs., 10 oz. and joins big brother, Duncan.

AMY (ANDERSON '95) KEYSER and her husband **JOHN ('93)** recently relocated to Nevada. John is a manager with McGladrey and Pullen, and Amy is a math instructor at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

"Together Again!"

Homecoming 2003

More photos available at www.mvnu.edu/homecoming



Class of 1998.



MVNU Cougar basketball action.



Class of 1983.



Homecoming Ensemble Concert.



Class of 1978.



Kim Rhyan ('00) initiated the first ever ArtAlum art auction.

ATUL MESHRAKAR ('95) and his wife Sunita announce the birth of their twins on August 16, 2003. Their boy was born at 4:38 p.m. and a girl at 4:39 p.m. Both children weighed 4-1/2 pounds. The children and Sunita are all doing great.

MICHELLE (MARTIN '95) SNODGRASS and her husband Aaron announce the birth of their son, Alec Thomas, on July 27, 2003. The couple resides in Braselton, Georgia.

JASON BEAN ('96) recently accepted a position as technology manager on the Amgen, Inc. account for WorldTravel BTI, the second-largest travel management company in the U.S. Jason's wife Kimberly is a stay-at-home mom with their two children, Ethan (3) and Abigail (1).

BRIAN ('96) and JEN (SHEAKLEY '98) HANSEN announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Paige, on July 18, 2003. She weighed 9 lbs., 6 oz. and was 22-1/2 inches long.

GREG MUNROE ('96) and Allyssa Cleveland were married on August 30, 2003, at Roser Memorial

Community Church. Greg is self-employed and Allyssa is an EMT. They reside in Bradenton, Florida.

BEN ('97) and HOLLY (SMITH '93) SANDERS recently returned to Mount Vernon, Ohio. Ben graduated from Regent University in May 2003 with a master's degree in counseling. He is now a counselor at Moundbuilders in Mount Vernon. Holly is working as a temporary secretary/receptionist at MVNU. Their daughter, Krista (11), is in sixth grade and Lauren (5) is in kindergarten.

JENNIFER (GROW '97) SULGROVE married David on April 15, 2000. They welcomed Jonathan Noland to their family on June 7, 2003. He weighed 9 lbs., 12 oz. and was 22-1/2 inches long. The family resides in Miamisburg, Ohio, where David is a software engineer and Jennifer is self-employed with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

VALERIE (RINEHART '97) HARPER has been employed by Wendy's International for three years and was recently promoted to executive assistant supporting the EVP of Mergers and Acquisitions in April

2003. In March 2003, her husband Tom became an independent contractor for Prestige Delivery Systems. They are building a house in Blacklick, Ohio.

TARA (RANDALL '97) and Brian Hensel announce the birth of Brianna Grace on July 26, 2003. She weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz. and was 19-1/2 inches long.

DR. MARK ('97) and MARIE (GESSEL '97) SCHUMAKER announce the birth of their daughter, Cora Elizabeth, on July 31, 2003. She joins big sister, Maya Abigail. The family resides in Warren, Michigan, where Mark is a second-year podiatry resident at the Detroit Medical Center.

JERRY ('97) and DAWN (SHEFFER '97) STAMPER are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ashleigh Dawn, on March 22, 2003. They recently transferred back to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Dawn is a property manager for Regency Centers and Jerry is finishing a master's degree in theology through Liberty University's distance learning program.

SCOTT ('97, AND EXCELL '03) and LESLIE (DODDS '95) STEINER have been married since October 1997. Scott is a financial advisor with Money Concepts in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and Leslie is a piano teacher. They announce the birth of their first child, Joshua James, on June 18, 2003. He weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. and was 21 inches long. The family resides in West Liberty, Ohio.

ADAM HUNTER ('98) recently began his first year at Regent University in their doctor of psychology program. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

KINDA (THOMPSON '98) MCBRIDE and her husband **BRAD ('98)** announce the birth of their son, Ian Michael, on August 15, 2003. Ian weighed 8 lbs., 12 oz. and was 20-1/2 inches long. He joins big sister, Anna Colleen (3). The family lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Brad is a programmer and Kinda is a stay-at-home mom.

GREG ELMORE ('99) was recently promoted to the director of development for Students In Free Enterprise. He has relocated to Springfield, Missouri.



Class of 1993.



Homecoming Queen Janelle Wine with her father Rev. David Wine.



Ohio historical marker dedicated for the Lakeholm Administration Building.



Cougar Crazyes.



Soloist Shawna (Sayre '96) Hudson during the Homecoming concert.



Class of 1973.



Class of 1988.

2000s

MELINDA BURNS ('00) married Mark Brown on June 21, 2003. They are both employed at Saint Joseph Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

KAREN (COLLINS '00) DIXON was recently commissioned to design and paint a life-size fiberglass mule for Miles of Mules, a community art project to help raise funds for restoring the Delaware River Canal. In October, she was also published in a "coffee table" book for Miles of Mules. She is a secretary at College Hill Moravian Church and is taking correspondence courses to become a certified web designer. Her husband, Donny, works part-time for Orasure Technologies and started his own business, The Wash Wagon, a mobile auto wash and detailing service. They reside in Bath, Pennsylvania, and attend Bethlehem First Church of the Nazarene.

DEBBIE (DUMBROFF '00) YOUNG and her husband Danny announce the birth of Bradley Alan on July 31, 2003. He weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. and was 18-1/2 inches long.

JENNIFER ADAMS ('01) married Jedidiah Brake on June 29, 2002. Their first son, Gideon, was born on May 21, 2003, weighing 6 lbs., 8 oz. He was 21-1/2 inches long. They recently relocated from Colorado Springs to Lisbon, Ohio. Jed is serving as a chaplain's assistant in the Army Reserves and Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom.

DARCY (MCELHANEY '01) LICHNEROWICZ recently completed her coursework for a master's degree in pastoral counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary. She obtained her licensure and currently works as a counselor in Warren, Ohio.

SCOTT CASTLE ('01) and LINDSAY MUELLER ('02) were married on July 19, 2003, at the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. Scott is director of Inorganic Business Development with

the GFS Chemical Company in Columbus, Ohio. Lindsay is a second-year medical student at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. They reside in Athens, Ohio.

SCOTT MINGUS ('01) married **REBECCA GODBEY ('03)** on May 31, 2003. They live in Manchester, Pennsylvania, and both are working in retail.

KIM (CRAWFORD '02) CAMPBELL was married on April 26, 2003, to Shane Campbell at New Albany Church of the Nazarene. Kim is working for the Buckeye Ranch as an education intervention specialist at Rockbridge Academy. Shane is a civil engineer at Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects.

MICHAEL DIFFENDERFER ('02) recently became engaged to Tatiana Davina Stross, a senior at MVNU.

MELANIE (KRUMME '02) and Brian Snow announce the birth of Titus Jarrett on August 7, 2003. He weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz. The family resides in Utica, Ohio.



Entries with a camera icon (📷) have a photo available online.

To view these photos, visit

www.mvnu.edu/alumni/grapevine/grapevine.html

Please feel free to submit photos of weddings, babies, etc. to Mount Vernon NOW, 800 Martinsburg Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050, or by e-mail to alumni@mvnu.edu, or online at www.mvnu.edu/alumni/grapevine/grapevine.html.



Evergreen and Ever-giving

Endowments are like redwood trees or giant noble firs. These evergreens stand tall for generations, retaining their rich green fullness, providing shelter and shade in every season. They give endlessly for the benefit of others.

Each evergreen tree begins with a seed. One seed falling on fertile ground . . . taking root and growing upward into the atmosphere . . . expanding, reaching out, producing more benefits every year.

You can plant your own evergreen endowment at Mount Vernon Nazarene University—a lasting legacy that will bear your name, or the name of someone you wish to honor, and beautify the financial landscape for generations to come.

To learn more about endowments, contact Austin Swallow, executive director for Development, at 1-800-367-9294 or development@mvnu.edu. You may also visit www.mvnugift.org for the new planned giving portion of MVNU's web site.

Imagine if rising tuition was the last thing you had to worry about.

Sounds like a plan.

Saving for private college is a great challenge for many families today. Now, Mount Vernon Nazarene University and TIAA-CREF are making it easier to fund your child's education.

Introducing the Independent 529 Plan, sponsored by over 200 of the nation's top private colleges. This unique savings program lets you prepay future college tuition at a price less than you would pay today. And that's regardless of how much the cost has risen by the time your child becomes a freshman. What's more, the plan has all the significant federal tax benefits of other 529 plans.

We think you'll find there's no better way than the Independent 529 Plan to ensure a first-class education at MVNU for your child—with a lot less worry for you. The plan is sponsored and maintained by the Tuition Plan Consortium, a nonprofit group established in 1966. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. administers the plan. For more information, contact Austin Swallow at 1-800-367-9294, or visit www.independent529plan.org.



William and Evelyn Prince Student Union Update

THANK YOU, ALUMNI! So far, \$309,000 has been pledged toward the \$500,000 Alumni Challenge for the William and Evelyn Prince Student Union. Please help us meet our December 31 goal by sending in your pledge today or by pledging online at www.mvnu.edu/princestudentunion. You can also view proposed interior computer renderings and read further updates online. Help make this much needed student space a reality!



Passing the Baton

By Keith Newman, Vice President for University Advancement

I love sports . . . the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat and everything else! My athletic career was less than memorable and I've always blamed it on the genetic defect of being "time-challenged"—in other words, I was slow. In junior high I dreaded the 100-yard dash. My friends were timed with a stopwatch while I could be recorded with an hourglass. My lack of speed may explain why I collect stories about people who excel at running.

One of my favorites comes from the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Most probably remember these games for Jesse Owens' performance. As a stunned Adolph Hitler watched Owens win four gold medals, very few remember the women's 400-meter relay. At the time, Germany had the world's fastest team and their only competition came from the United States team, anchored by Helen Stephens, the world's fastest woman. The Germans won their semi-final heat establishing a new world record. The Americans also won their heat, running only seven-tenths of a second slower than the Germans.

Going into the finals, the Germans developed an unconventional plan to overcome Stephens' phenomenal speed. They placed their fastest runners in the first three legs of the race, hoping to build up a lead that even Stephens couldn't overcome. The German plan seemed flawless as the first two sprinters established a strong lead over the Americans. The third runner, Marie Dollinger, stretched the lead to a seemingly insurmountable eight meters. A German win was inevitable. All they needed was for the German anchor, Ilse Dorrfeldt, to grab the baton from her teammate and sprint to the finish line. Striding uncontested, her eyes fixed on the open track, Ilse reached back to take the baton . . . but felt only air. She finally clutched the stick, but it slipped out of her sweat-covered hand and onto the track.

No one will ever know whether Helen Stephens could have overcome that eight-meter deficit. The Americans won and the Germans lost because they failed to pass the baton.

Vision is like a baton. God gives it to us. We pass it to others. In a recent breakfast with retired faculty, I expressed my appreciation for their faithfulness in passing the baton to the next generation. Their commitment shaped us and made us who we are today. Our challenge is to continue to pass the baton so future generations will enjoy the blessings and the possibilities of the MVNU vision.

**Vision is a like a baton.
God gives it to us.
We pass it to others.**

Vision is supported by people, programs, even buildings. We are hoping that construction can begin on our new Prince Student Union in the spring of 2004. Our alumni are leading the way as we raise the final \$500,000 needed to complete this project. Thanks to all who have made a pledge or given a gift. For those that have not yet contributed, we invite you to join the team and help us finish this race.

It has been said, "Vision is hope with a blueprint." God-given visions are passed with passion and intention, believing the results have eternal rewards. At MVNU, we are passing on our vision of an academic community of faith, shaping Christ-like leaders for lifelong service. It provides the blueprint as we plan and pray about a future that is truly Life Changing.

MVNU Alumni and Friends Trip to the British Isles

Hosted by Dr. and Mrs. LeBron Fairbanks • June 26–July 10, 2004



Join Mount Vernon Nazarene University for a tour through the majestic and historic British Isles! Details and itinerary will be finalized soon. To receive information regarding the trip, please contact Jennifer Martin, MVNU's director of Special

Events, at (740) 392-6868, ext. 4351, or events@mvnu.edu. Check online at www.mvnu.edu/alumni/activities.html for updates and details as they become available. The trip will be limited to the first 35 reservations.

NEW!

www.gotomvnu.com

Mount Vernon Nazarene University announces www.gotomvnu.com— a new Admissions micro web site designed specifically with high school students in mind. For more information, visit the new site, call 1-866-GO-2-MVNU (462-6868) or schedule a personal visit!



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